(c) AAI has been directed to give top priority to finalization of Recruitment and Promotion rules. AAI is expected to finalize the same shortly.

Unauthorised absence of pilots

†2819. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether going on leave by pilots without any intimation is in accordance with rules;

(b) if not, what action Government initiate against such pilots;

(c) whether it is a fact that the daily flight from Kochi to Lakshadweep remained suspended from any days due to absence of pilots from duty without any intimation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what concrete steps Government are taking to avert such unfortunate incident in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As far as Public Sector airlines are concerned, pilots going on leave without prior sanction are treated as being on "unauthorized leave" which is a misconduct under Standing Orders of the airline. These rules are equally applicable to both workmen and Officers. Considering that it is a misconduct, the concerned airline initiates disciplinary action against the erring employees by issuing a charge-sheet, conducting a departmental enquiry and imposing punishment according to the type of misconduct.

(c) and (d) Flight from Kochi to Lakshadweep (operated by Dornier aircraft) remained suspended on 21.06.2005, 22.06.2005 and from 24.06.2005 to 27.06.2005 due to non-availability of Commander.

(e) Indian Airlines is making all efforts to get Dornier Pilots from Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and Coast Guard on deputation.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.